agriculture to global climate change. Emphasis has also been given during XI Plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network with additional budget to cope up to the challenges posed by climate change.

Deaths of marine species due to pollution and climatic changes

1259. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rising pollution, climate change, etc. are spelling a death knell to hundreds of marine species;

(b) if so, what long-term measures are being thought of to prevent such a situation in our vast coastal areas, which apart from providing livelihood to thousands of our people also disturb the ecological balance; and

(c) what was the quantity of sea-food during 2007 and how much foreign exchange we earned from export of fresh fish and its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Mass mortality of fish occur in coastal waters occasionally due to harmful algal bloom caused mainly by natural oceanographic factors. Presently, there is no evidence of mortality of fish in the coastal waters due to climate change.

(b) The Pollution Control Boards of the respective coastal States monitor activities which are likely to cause pollution and enforce compliance to norms laid down for prevention of waste water discharge and other pollutants in sea water. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin has taken up studies to assess the impact of climate change on marine fisheries.

(c) During 2006-07, India has exported 6.12 lakh tones of marine fish and fishery products valued at US$ 1781.30 million.

Potential in National Bamboo Mission

1260. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Bamboo Mission and how far we have succeeded in harnessing the potential of this environmental-friendly plant;

(b) whether this plant provides income, food and housing to millions of people and there is imperative need to develop this sector;

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to ensure standardization and training in bamboo processing with a view to promote bamboo-related activities; and

(d) the details of its status in Orissa and Jharkhand and what is the action plan of Government to exploit its potential in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on

National Bamboo Mission (NBM) during 2006-07 for implementation in 28 States including Jharkhand and Orissa. The Mission objective is to promote growth of the bamboo sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies; to increase the coverage of area under bamboo in potential areas with appropriate varieties to enhance yields; to promote marketing of bamboo and bamboo based handicrafts; to generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youths. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 75.70 crore has been released. For the year 2007-08, 24 State Annual Action Plans & 19 Research & Development proposals were cleared and an amount of Rs. 114.39 crore has been released for implementation of NBM. During the current year (2008-09), budgetary outlay of Rs. 70.00 crore has been provided, out of which Rs. 57.62 crores has been already released to different States. For harnessing the potential of bamboo, 819 nurseries have been established and an area of 72672 ha. area has been planted with bamboo. Further, 3933 farners and 805 field functionaries have been imparted training for raising bamboo nursery and plantation.

(b) Yes. Bamboo shoot is palatable and used as a nutritive food supplement in many parts of country. The NBM is making efforts to create market within the country and abroad for Bamboo based handicraft products under the marketing component of the Scheme.

(c) Under NBM, processing of bamboo and standardization is not covered. However, the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA), a mission mode initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, promotes bamboo based economic activities like manufacture of bamboo mat boards, bamboo flooring, stick making for blinds & agarbatti, bamboo charcoal etc. with special emphasis on process and product standardization. The products and processes developed and validated meet the laid down standards which helps in promoting economic activities, value addition and employment opportunities in the bamboo sector.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has released an amount of Rs. 329.97 lakh, Rs. 736.72 and Rs. 65.94 lakh for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively under NBM to Orissa. The Action Plan of Orissa lays emphasis on establishing nurseries, undertaking new plantations, improving existing stock, imparting training to farmers and field functionaries, demonstrating technology, organizing seminars/workshops and managing pests and diseases. For Jharkhand, an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakh and Rs. 100.31 lakh have been released during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The action plan of Jharkhand lays emphasis on establishing nurseries, undertaking new plantations, improving existing stock, training field functionaries, demonstrating technology and organizing seminars/workshops.

Agricultural production by use of traditional dung and bio-fertilizers

†1261. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be decrease in level of production than at present, by the use of dung and bio-fertilizers after banning the use of chemical fertilizers for ever;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi